

Applicants: Norberto Oscar GOMEZ et al.
Application No. 10/712,105

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached two sheets of Drawings contains changes to Fig. 1A, 1B, 2A, and 2B. Sheet 1, which includes Figs. 1A and 1B, includes reference number 70 in Fig. 1A, and corrects the placement of reference number 48 in Fig. 1B. Sheet 2, which includes Figs. 2A and 2B, includes reference number 70 in Fig. 1A, and corrects the placement of reference number 48 in Fig. 2B

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (2)

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-18 and 20-51 are pending. Claims 20-26, 28, 31-36, 38-41 and 47-48 are amended and claims 19 and 46 cancelled and rewritten as new claims 49 and 51. Amendments in the specification and in the claims are made for purposes of clarification only.

The Office Action rejected all previously pending claims 1-48. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections, and in light of the following arguments, request that the rejections be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Office Action rejected claims 1-27, 30-35, and 38-48 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,135,329 to Stoneberg (hereinafter "Stoneberg"). As previously rejected claims 19 and 46 have been rewritten as new claims 49 and 51, these new claims will be grouped in with the discussion of this rejection. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Stoneberg is a two piece structure, requiring the use of a base plus a cap for functionality. (See, for example, col. 3 line 65 to col. 4, line 24 of Stoneberg.) According to the Office Action's reading of the Stoneberg reference, Stoneburg has a sidewall 12, top 26, post 14, and support structure 36 on its base 10, and an internal cap ring 68 on the cap 60 of Stoneburg. In contrast to the Action's reading of the reference, the upper portion 26 of Stoneburg is a not a top of a cap as presently claimed. Further, upper portion 26 does not extend to an end of the top at Stoneburg's body part 12.

In Applicants' pending claims the sidewall, top, post, support structure, and internal cap ring are all part of the cap. However, element 68 of Stoneburg, which the Office Action defines as an

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"internal cap ring", exists on element 60. The features that the Action defines as the post, sidewall, top and support structure exist on element 10, and not on element 60. Thus, Stoneburg, unlike the claimed invention, does not disclose the internal cap ring and the post, sidewall, top, and support structure on a cap. Regarding claim 43, Stoneburg does not disclose the claimed thread and a post on a cap.

For at least these reasons, pending claims 1, 8, 49, 43, and 51 are allowable over the Stoneberg reference. Dependent claims 2-7, 9-18, 20-29, 31-35, 38-42, 44-45, and 47-48 are allowable as depending from allowable claims, and for their additional claimed features. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Though the Office Action includes method claim 30 in the group of rejected claims (see page 2), there is no discussion explaining why claim 30 is anticipated by Stoneburg. As a result, a proper response is not possible. Clarification is respectfully requested so that a complete response can be provided.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 28, 39, 36, and 37 as unpatentable over Stoneberg in view of U.S. Patent 4,848,601 to Reil (hereinafter "Reil"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. As Reil does not remedy the deficiencies of Stoneberg discussed above, the combination of the references does not render present claims 28, 39, 36, and 37 obvious. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

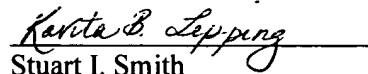
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Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance indicating the allowability of claims 1-18 and 20-51 and that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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